

# TIMELINES

*Students practice using a timeline to study*

## Zone In

### Free Write

1. Students write as many words as possible in 1 minute.
2. Write on the board the target number of words for the group (10 times the number of students). Students don't have to worry about spelling—just quantity and speed.
3. Give the keyword INDEPENDENCE. Say GO; time 1 minute. STOP.
4. Students count their words. Add everyone's total to get the total for the group. Did the group make the goal? Ask for volunteers to read their lists.

## Topic

### Using timelines to study

(Materials: **Happy Birthday America** ♦ and index cards)

## Introduction

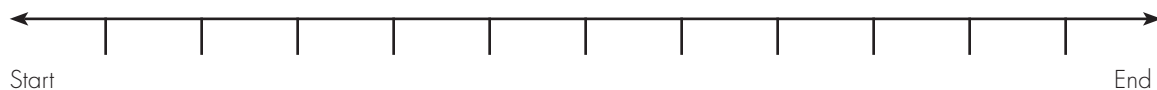
**Ask:** What are time lines used for? When have students seen timelines?

Possible answers:

- Timelines show dates and events in the order they happened.
- They show how events in history relate to each other.
- Timelines can show what was going on in different places in the world at the same time.
- Timelines are seen in newspapers, books, and tests.
- Timelines can help map out information and help in studying.

**Ask:** How do you read a timeline?

**Answer:** Timelines read from left to right. The earliest date is on the left end of the timeline. The last date is on the right end of the timeline. All other dates are listed chronologically from left to right.



**Explain:** A timeline of your entire life starts with the day you were born (on the left) and ends with today's date. Events are listed in between those two dates from the earliest to the latest.

Ask for a volunteer to come up to the board to do a timeline of his or her life.

## Activity

Give out the **Happy Birthday America ♦** and an index card. Have students draw a timeline on the index card and plot the dates and events from the reading.

## Wrap Up

How could a timeline be interesting or helpful to you?



## CLINIC 17 HANDOUT

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

July 4th is one of the most important days in the American holiday calendar. It is America's birthday. What actually happened on this day? How do people celebrate it? Read on to find out.

### **The history of the Declaration of Independence**

The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. At the time, North America was a British colony. After the French-Indian Wars, the British had a huge national debt. The country raised taxes in their 13 North American colonies. The people living in the colonies were angry because they did not have any say in the government's decisions.

In 1774 the colonies began a revolutionary war against British rule. After the Declaration of Independence was approved, the "Province Bell" was rung on July 8th to celebrate the birth of the United States. The bell was later renamed the "Liberty Bell."

### **The making of modern America**

Peace with Britain was made in Paris in 1783. Establishing the United States government took several years. In 1789, George Washington became the first President of the United States.

### **The Star-Spangled Banner**

The most important symbol of American independence is its flag. The first American flag was sewn by a friend of George Washington, Betsy Ross, in 1776. There were 13 stars and 13 stripes to represent the 13 colonies. The stars were placed in a circle to show that no colony could be viewed above another. Today's flag has 50 stars to represent the 50 United States.

### **Celebrations**

Today, July 4th is celebrated with parades, marching bands, picnics and fireworks. Some people wear red, white, and blue clothes. Some also dress their homes with red, white and blue streamers. It's a big party for Americans everywhere. Some of the biggest celebrations are in Virginia, New York, Arizona, and California.